

EQUALIZATION & ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

September 3, 2009 – 3:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Chairman M. Johnson; Supervisors Grattidge, Raymond, Thompson; Southworth; Jenkins; Spencer Hellwig, Mgmt. Analyst; Carol Holley, Joanne Bosley, Real Property Tax; Cindy Baker, Treasurer; Mark Rider, Co. Attorney

Chairman Johnson called the meeting to order.

Mr. Grattidge moved to approve the minutes of the July 21st meeting. Mr. Thompson seconded. Unanimous.

Mr. Rider stated there are a series of tender offers to approve. The first one is for \$1,251.65 in the Town of Galway. The person has deposited his taxes and wants the County to reconvey the property back to them. In the Town of Northumberland, \$3,347.65, the title to the property was not in an estate, so we cannot convey property to a deceased person, and there was no estate done in Surrogate Court. He said there is an affidavit of who the survivors of the estate are, and we will convey it back to those two people. **Ms. Raymond moved to approve these tender offers. Mr. Thompson seconded. Unanimous.**

Mr. Rider stated there is property on the auction list to be sold on the September 22nd in Providence on Trevett Road. It was pulled in March because the people were trying to sell it, but they haven't received the money as yet, but they will pay after they get the money on the sale of the property. The lawyer for the seller will be responsible for collecting the amount out of the proceeds of the sale (\$10,539.17). Ms. Raymond asked if there was a closing date scheduled. Mr. Rider stated the owner said September 15th, but that is the day of the Board Meeting, and the deed will not be done that day. The owner thought he may be able to get money up front from the buyer, he said. Chairman Johnson said if there has to be a second pull, we will need a special meeting. Ms. Raymond said Supervisor Hunter will have to fill out a request for a second pull as well. **Ms. Raymond moved to defer this matter to the call of the Chair for further discussion. Mr. Grattidge seconded. Unanimous.**

Ms. Baker said they received a letter from the owner of the Good Times Lakeview Inn Restaurant on Ballston Lake, Desiree Kelleigh, who is requesting a waiver of penalties and interest on the 2008 taxes and be allowed to pay the 2008 taxes prior to paying 2009. Chairman Johnson said the reasoning in doing this would delay the property going on the auction list. Mr. Rider said we cannot do the first part of this, and you have to pay the most recent taxes first by State law. Ms. Southworth stated she has had a brief conversation with her, and her husband has severe medical issues. She said Ms. Kelleigh heard something like this got passed in Albany County and thought we could consider this. Mr. Grattidge stated Albany County is offering to reduce penalties for a period of time for back things. They are trying to encourage receiving some of their back taxes, he said. Chairman Johnson said we cannot waive the 2008 penalties and interest. Ms.

Raymond said it is unfortunate to see any business run into trouble at this time, but we cannot just set this precedent. She suggested the owner go to her customer base and have an event to help her. **Ms. Raymond moved to deny this request and to have Mr. Rider explain to Ms. Kelleigh why the County is not able to do this. Mr. Grattidge seconded. Unanimous.**

Ms. Holley stated there are 10 parcels on the auction list.

Mr. Thompson moved to adjourn the meeting to the call of the Chair. Mr. Grattidge seconded. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine M. Sodemann